

CPSR

July 21, 1989

Daniel Ellsberg

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Dear Dan,

I want to thank you very much for agreeing to consider signing a membership appeal letter for us. We're very excited about the prospect. Enclosed is the first draft for a letter we propose to send to people in what we call "kindred spirits" organizations, such as the Union of Concerned Scientists, PSR, the ACLU, etc. We're mailing to 25,000 people from a variety of these groups. Another letter is being sent to 50,000 computer professionals. It is being signed by a group of winners of the Turing Award, which is something like the Nobel Prize of computer science.

Feel free to make suggestions about this letter, or turn it into something you feel comfortable with. We're of course chiefly interested in getting across the main points of our program. I am also going to send this to a professional copy editor, someone who specializes in direct mail, so the content may change a little. I will of course get your approval for the final version. But the first draft is close to what we want; our mail pieces are simple, straightforward, and clean. The letter will go out only with a small two-sided brochure, a reply card, and a return envelope. No gags, gimmicks, or scare tactics.

You asked me what CPSR is up to these days, so I've enclosed some material to give you an idea. We have three programs: computers and the arms race; computers, privacy, and civil liberties; and computers in the workplace. In the national security program, we're opposing the SDI by fighting against the "Brilliant Pebbles" program and the National Test Bed in Colorado Springs. We also do a fair amount of work on the potential for accidental nuclear war

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precipitated by computer error. In the privacy area, we have challenged the FBI on some things it wanted for its upgrade to the National Crime Information Center. Details of that are in the spring 1989 issue of our newsletter. People concerned with workplace issues are organizing a conference on "participatory design" of software and computer systems, an engineering paradigm that started in Scandinavia that allows workers to participate in the design of their computer workstations. All of this work is described in some of the material enclosed.

If you have any questions about the letter, the membership campaign, CPSR's program, or anything else, please feel free to call me. Once again, we appreciate your kindness more than we can say. It was a great honor for me to meet you at the PSR banquet. I have been a long-time admirer of your courage and dedication, and I hope there comes a time when I can help you out in some small way.

I will be looking forward to hearing from you. I'd like to get your comments on the letter back in a week, if that's possible.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,



Gary Chapman
Executive Director, CPSR